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The Martlet

Colleges to receive autonomy

Job skills are goal - McGeer

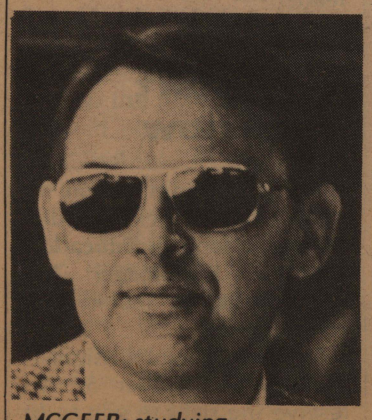
British Columbia community colleges are in for greater autonomy in program planning and control, deputy education minister Walter Hardwick announced recently.

Financing, however, will still be controlled from Victoria. The government proposes to establish college boards at each institution to direct academic affairs, with membership appointed partially by the government and partially by local school boards. There will be no provision for faculty or student representation, who will instead be served by a program advisory committee.

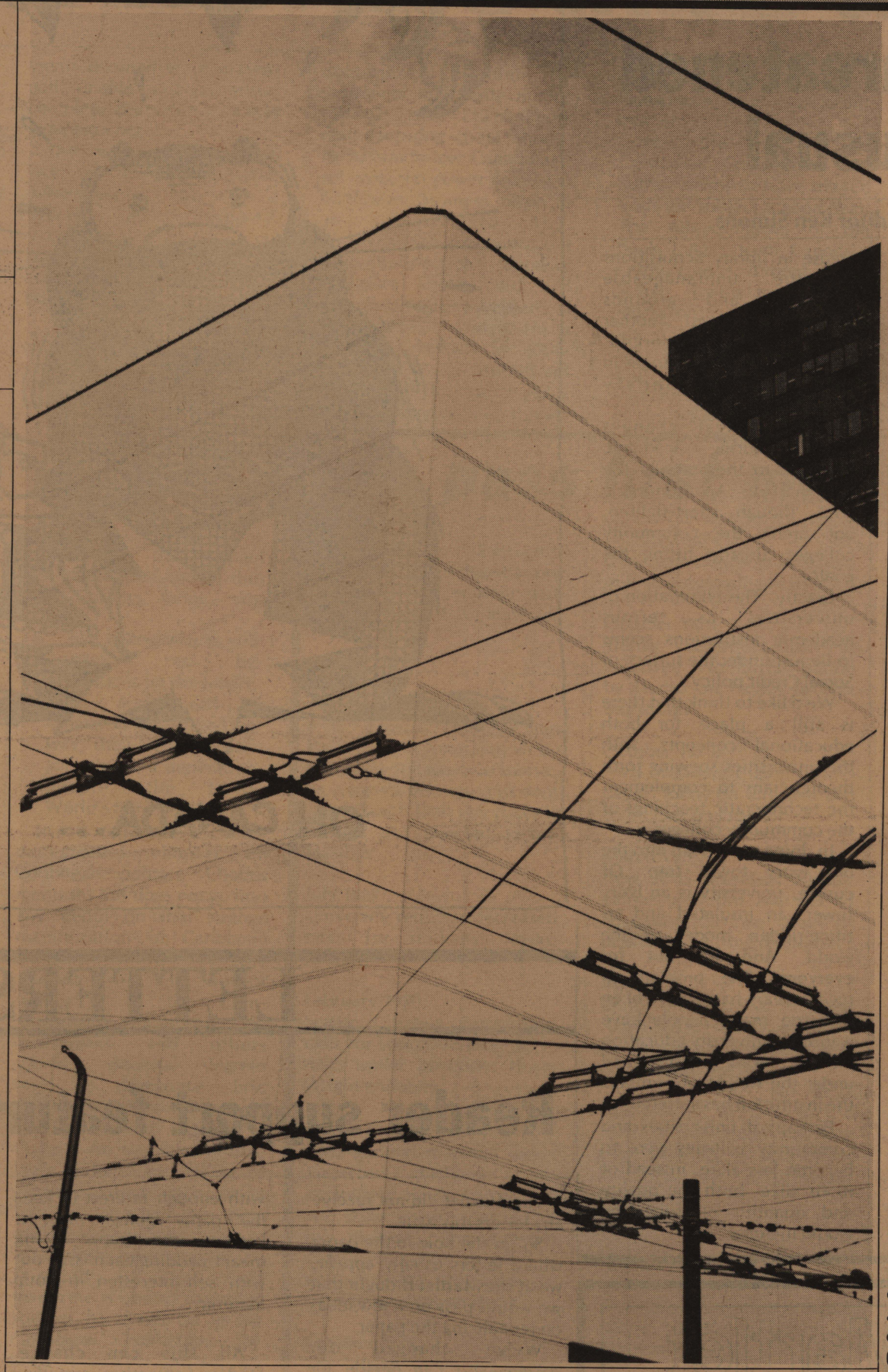
College and vocational school teaching staff will also be given the choice of unionizing as public service employees or forming a professional association.

In a separate announcement, education minister Pat McGeer launched a series of pilot programs designed to redirect post-secondary courses to job-oriented skills and to enrich current secondary graduation programs. The latter will involve augmenting the standard secondary school curriculum with pre-apprenticeship training, career training and advanced academic studies.

"The stakes are very high because only a small proportion of the total education for any student is directed towards the job skill area." McGeer stated. He later expressed hope future university and college expansion would focus on what he termed 'successful' programs. Such courses and programs would clearly train young people in marketable skills and would be determined by the current job market.



MCGEER: studying



Martlet feature photo by Christopher Rowe

Student jobless increase

But not in Victoria

One hundred and fifty-five thousand students couldn't find full-time jobs this summer, according to statistics Canada figures released by the National Union of Students (NUS).

The national figures represent a 17.3 per cent slice of the Canadian student population. Quebec, British Columbia and Ontario students were worst off, with unemployment rates of 20.9, 20.1 and 18.4 per cent respectively.

NUS spokesman Ross Powell, reflecting on federal student loans regulations which tie amount of money granted to weeks of gainful employment, predicted drastically decreased enrollment this fall.

At UVic, however, student unemployment hasn't been as bad as in previous years. AMS spokesman Casey Rippon commented that while student unemployment is still a prime area of concern, "from what we've been seeing, and the people we've been talking to, the situation in terms of numbers has improved substantially. The question of whether the jobs are generating enough income for students to return (to university on) is still unanswered, however."

Bus pass program reprieved

By Linda Gustafson
Martlet Staff

UVic students will again have the use of the convenient bus passes this year, a reversal of a Hydro decision of over a month and a half ago.

June 8, 1977, BC Hydro informed AMS President Brian Gardiner and Dean of Administration Trevor Matthews that the experimental bus pass system, initiated last year, would not be continued, stating that the program was not a success, and interest did not warrant another year of bus passes. The student government, which has as a body been working to improve transportation for students for 10 years, immediately started lobbying tactics. There was a letter writing campaign, personal lobbying, and a demonstration on June 20 which had the support of the bus drivers as well as students. The campaign culminated in a meeting in Vancouver with William Duncan, General manager of Transportation and was attended by Gardiner, Matthews, and Ted Sawchuk, Director of Student and Ancillary Affairs. The meeting resulted in an agreement to continue the program, again only experimentally for one year only.

The bus passes will be available in two forms: single term passes, good from September 12 to April 14. The single term passes will be available at a subsidized rate of $40.00, with an additional $4.00 paid to Hydro by the University. BC Hydro estimates that on a 10-trips-per-week (twice daily) basis, a year-long pass would be worth $91.00. Hydro is offering this pass to UVic for $85.00 each, which is in turn offered to the student at $75.00. The AMS will be soaking up the estimated $2.00 administration costs per pass.

The arrangements for the 1976-77 bus pass system, as well as negotiations for the present system were with D.T. Suttie, the General Manager of transit Operations. Suttie was, it appeared, initially in favour of the 1977-78 bus pass program, and it is felt by some that his refusal of June 8 was

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EDITORIAL

Ivory towers sadly threatened as usual

By Martlet Editor Ken Simons

The provincial government has moved to foot the entire community college bill, at the same time passing control to local advisory boards. Community access to higher education is to be widened as loopholes which have existed ever since the college system was hastily established in 1964 are closed. Teaching staff are being encouraged to unionize—as much as the Socreds would 'encourage' anyone—and fees are not even scheduled to rise.

As anyone who has followed the capriciousness of the present government will be all too aware, Pat McGeer's summer promises must be taken with a flagon of salt. Still, this same government has committed itself to regional education. The demands for local representation have been answered, even if Victoria retains its tight grip on the purse strings.

The community colleges have found a place in the provincial educational scene, and we wish more power to them as they become entrenched. But, as we always must ask, what of the universities?

McGeer—bless his litte concrete heart—is 'studying' us again. After his celebrated out burst of early July when he blamed increased tuition costs on faculty pay demands (a demand equal in financial scope to the exorbitant increase in library acquisitions or the unmanageable buildings and grounds maintenance costs), another press release emerged, promising 'radical' changes in the post-secondary educational system.

These radical changes entail tailoring academic offerings to the state of the job market. An admirable goal, though short-sighted, but aren't the community colleges already fitting the goal?

Exactly. The elimination of universities as serious academic institutions seems to lie just under the surface of Social Credit policy.

We'd like to think that there is still a place for both educational concepts, with the universities spewing forth theoreticians to complement the technocratic teachings of the community colleges.

In doing so, we fall into the old ivory tower trap. **Of course**, university is an ivory tower, an insulated and artifice-ridden model of the world. **And it's not for everyone**. The problem in recent years has simply been that too many people have wanted a university education for the wrong reasons, and under the weight of numbers the institution has suffered.

Perhaps if universities and community colleges were to become less alike, instead of more alike, both the quality and quantity of education would increase.

The Martlet

The Martlet is the official newspaper of the Alma Mater Society of the University of Victoria. It is published weekly from September to April and monthly during July and August. Editorial content is solely the responsibility of the **Martlet** staff. All editorial and graphic material is copyrighted and is the exclusive property of the **Martlet** unless otherwise marked.

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Sincere thanks to Ross Tremblay for taking a bunch of photos,learning the fine points of layout wihtout clenching teeth, and typing 70 wpm to boot. See, learning how to work is easy. Gee, maybe even the editor will learn someday.

Word of the week, which was to have been typegraphecel, has been recalled due to its trite nature. In its place we introduce "Famous Ethnic Jokes Throughout History": **"Take my minority...please!".**

LETTERS

Reader support features coming

The Martlet did not receive any letters this issue.

So, in the hole in the paper where letters usually appear, we at the **Martlet** thought that we would pass on a few ideas on revitalizing the paper.

We've changed our design—you can decide for yourself whether you like it or not—and we'd like to think that surface changes such as that reflect philosophical changes, too.

No—we're not becoming more conservative. God help us if that were the case. Rather, we're trying to be less showy; performing fewer typographical acrobatics, as it were.

The anticipated end result is a paper that you, the reader, identify more with. We think that it'd be just great if our readers were interested enough in our medium and in the issues we cover to more directly shape what goes into our columns.

No newspaper whould begin and end with its own staff. The Martlet staff has been accused of cliqueishness in the past; usually after they were the only ones around with enough interest to keep the paper going, even if keeping the paper going meant padding each issue out with self-interested in-group material.

All this can change. Starting September, providing that we get enough reader response, we will start three new reader-supported features, in addition to the present letters column.

open columns

The first two are what have in the past been our columns and comic strips. Both these features will become 'open slots' in the paper and will be available to anyone with a message and a reasonable talent for words or drawing. Libelous, obscene or racist-sexist material, needless to say, will be returned unpublished.

Aside from that, the columns and panels are open. Limited posterity is yours.

exchange ideas

The third proposed reader service is the Exchange page. Each week, a general topic will be set forward and critical letters-cum-articles up to 500 words in length will be published on them. Readers can also suggest future issures for Exchange. It could prove the start of a stimulating perpetual-motion machine.

It cannot be overstated that the success of this and the other proposed ventures rests on the response of you, the reader.

start now

To start things off on the right foot; next issue's **Exchange** topic is **Education: Jobs or Knowledge?** This week's editorial should lend some impetus.

Deadline for submissions is Monday, September 5. We reserve the right to edit to fit space requirements.

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BOOKS

Third World's third world

By Martlet Books Editor Ben Webb

The Caribbean Connection: The Double-Edged Canadian Presence in the Caribbean
Robert Chodos, James Lorimer & Co, pp. 260, $4.95

To Canadians, the Caribbean, the commonwealth Caribbean in particular, conjures up images of tax shelters, budget charter vacations, and not much else. If some Canadians think of the social and economic problems of the area, they seldom connect Canada with these problems, preferring to play the benign and sympathetic observers and to lay the blame on the Yankee imperialists.

Robert Chodos' *The Caribbean Connection* is an excellent antidote to this common view. Chodos documents Canadian interests in the Caribbean competently, and in the process gives a very sensitive and unpretentious view of the agony of that part of the world.

The first chapters of the book provide a telling portrait of small nations which have passed from overlord to overlord over 200 years and lack the natural resources which are the hope of other Third World countries.

Max Saltsman, the ebullient NDP'er who proposed annexing the small and obscure Turks and Caicos chain three years ago, claims that the future of the Caribbean is inextricably bound up with that of North America and Europe: "Who else are they going to turn to? Each other? They have nothing to offer each other but misery."

The small and relatively new nations of the Commonwealth Caribbean, which *the Caribbean Connection* is mainly concerned with, have become the demi-colonies of North American corporations and foreign aid agencies almost by default. the other courses open to them—integration into a mother state, like Martinique and Puerto Rico vis-a-vis France and the U.S., or a degree of independence through socialist revolution as in Cuba—are closed to them. The nations that once formed the British Caribbean empire—Jamaica, Grenada, Trinidad, and the others—were dumped long after they ceased to be an asset to the imperial mother, and will certainly not be reintegrated into Britain in the manner that Martinique remains a French department. Most of them, in addition, have economies too small, dependent, and even parasitic to gain the socialist independence that Cuba, an economic giant by West Indies standards, did. The Commonwealth Caribbean seems doomed to its present path, unable to choose wither complete dependence or real independence.

The small Caribbean states lack not only economic independence, but also a cultural tradiiton separate from their legacy of domination. Quoting the West Indian novelist V.S. Naipaul, Chodos writes:

> These Caribbean territories are not like those in Africa and Asia, with their international reverences, that have been returned to themselves after a period of colonial rule. They are manufactured societies, labour camps, creations of empire."

It is ironic that Naipaul, one of the best-known third world writers today, continues:

> The Island Blacks will continue to be dependent on the books, films, and goods of others; in this important way, they are half-made societies of a dependent people, the Third World's third world.

In his otherwise excellent background chapter on Caribbean politics, Chodos mentions but does not go into any depth on that strange manifestation of Caribbean political inefficacy—the phenomenon of "doctor politics". In the Commonwealth Caribbean, ex-academics and others sporting doctoral degrees tend to dominate. Eric Williams of Trinidad and ex-Premier Cheddi Jagan of Guyana are examples of this. West Indians are willing to abandon their fate to a "doctor" who will rule them as they are unworthy to do.

Chodos' fine article on Trinidad in *Last Post* magazine is one of the many sources he draws on in the *Caribbean Connection*. The book is well-researched and well-documented, and the author shows himself to be an excellent interviewer in his conversations with expatriate West Indians, white Caribbean entrepreneurs, and West Indian workers, academics, and politicians. One of the best passages in the book is the report of an interview with a native Trinidadian hotel manager, who declared,

> This is not for your book, but my opinion of tourism is that it tends to pervert any society it comes in contact with.

Chodos is at his journalistic best in the parts of the book dealing with the parasitic development of the Bahamas into a tourist, gambling, and banking centre. Here he points out the characteristically heavy Canadian involvement in the barely-legal Bahamian tax-avoidance industry. He goes on to document Canadian investments in bauxite mining (Alcan) and cheap-labour manufacturing (Bata Shoes). He characterizes Canada as a sub-imperial power dealing in Caribbean business often as an adjunct to U.S. multinationals. He points out the connection between Canadian foreign aid and Canadian business interests in the Caribbean sphere. He is not so simplistic or doctrinaire as to consider all aid but shows that Canadian aid is far from planned, but a mishmash of charity, Lester-Pearsonism, and raw profit motive.

Near the end of *The Caribbean Connection*, the author seems to have strayed from the subject a good deal. The subject-matter of the book ranges from Canadian entrepreneurs through West Indian poiiticians to immigration to Canada, leaving the reader wondering just what the book is about. There are perhaps too many digressions in the second half of the book, but this may be an unavoidable fault with a subject as vague and all-encompassing as Canada's relations with the Caribbean.

Chodos does not purport to have written a scholarly book (no *Last Post* books do, thank god), and the personal reflections culled from his travels in the West Indies are its best aspect. Perhaps a title less novellish than "Caribbean Connection'but not scholarly-sounding would represent Chodos' work better. "The Third World's third world", to use Naipaul's term, would fit.

Bus pass first mooted in '67

The University of Victoria has been involved in negotiations of one sort or another with B.C. Hydro for at least ten years:

March 1967
AMS general manager Ian Halkett is commissioned by university to report on transit; he suggests decreased student fares. South Oak Bay route is studied and rejected as unfeasible.

July 1967:
University requests decreased fares for students; Hydro refuses.

February 1970:
Senior Citizens Association calls for crosstown bus route; AMS under president Norm Wright endorses.

March 1974:
AMS general manager David Titterton delivers transportation survey similar to one done seven years earlier by Halkett. Recommends concerted action by all B.C. post-secondary institutions in bearing pressure on Hydro.

October 1974:
University vice-president Stephen Jennings formally requests Hydro introduction of a pass or reduced-fare system.

December 1974: University and Hydro discuss pass system, south Oak Bay route and on-campus transit centre.

February 1974:
Crosstown route established, linking Esquimalt and UVic.

October 1975:
Transit centre project is approved. No further action by Hydro on passes or Oak Bay route.

October 1975:
AMS president Clayton Shold begins lobby on bus pass and south Oak Bay route.

March 1976:
New AMS president Alistair palmer petitions Minister of Education on two issues of pass and rerouting proposals.

April 1976:
Joint proposal (UVic and AMS) on bus passes presented by Palmer and administrative dean Trevor Matthews.

May 1976:
AMS commits itself to bus pass program in appointing Phil Esmonde as program coordinator.

June 11 1976:
Hydro approves the UVic-AMS program. Experimental nature of the program is stipulated.

September 1976:
Bus passes go on sale: $30 apiece. 964 are sold, with 16 per cent of full-time students participating.

November 1976:
General transit fares increase 40 per cent.

December 1976:
University transit terminal opens beside the Student Union Building. AMS and university again request that Crosstown route be rescheduled to use the new facility.

December 11, 1976:
Bus pass program reapproved for spring session but cost rises 26.5 per cent to reflect increased fares.

March 1977:
AMS and UVic support permanent continuation of pass system.

June 8 1977:
Hydro announces that program will not be renewed. Lack of use is cited, despite only a slight decrease in second-term use.

June 20 1977:
AMS sets up information picket at B.C. Hydro Victoria offices.

July 1977:
AMS launches letter-writing campaign to save bus passes.

July 27 1977:
AMS president Brian Gardiner, administrative dean Trevor matthews and Student and Ancillary Services director Ted Sawchuk meet Hydro representatives in Vancouver. Agreement made to renew bus pass program.

September 1977:
Passes due to go on sale again.

BUS PASS

...from page one

caused by some fights in the Hydro bureaucracy.

The success of Gardiner's appeal to Duncan, Suttie's superior, was due to a large extent to the intensive lobbying tactics the student government used. "Your powers of persuation have convinced me," admitted Duncan.

The arrangements for the sale of the passes have not yet been finalized. It is felt that the limited sale period used last year was not as effective as it should be. There is a possibility of the passes being available all year, with the price being scaled to the date it was purchased. "We weren't expecting our appeal to be successful" said Webb, "and consequently had not made final arrangements for the administration of the bus passes."

UNCLASSIFIED

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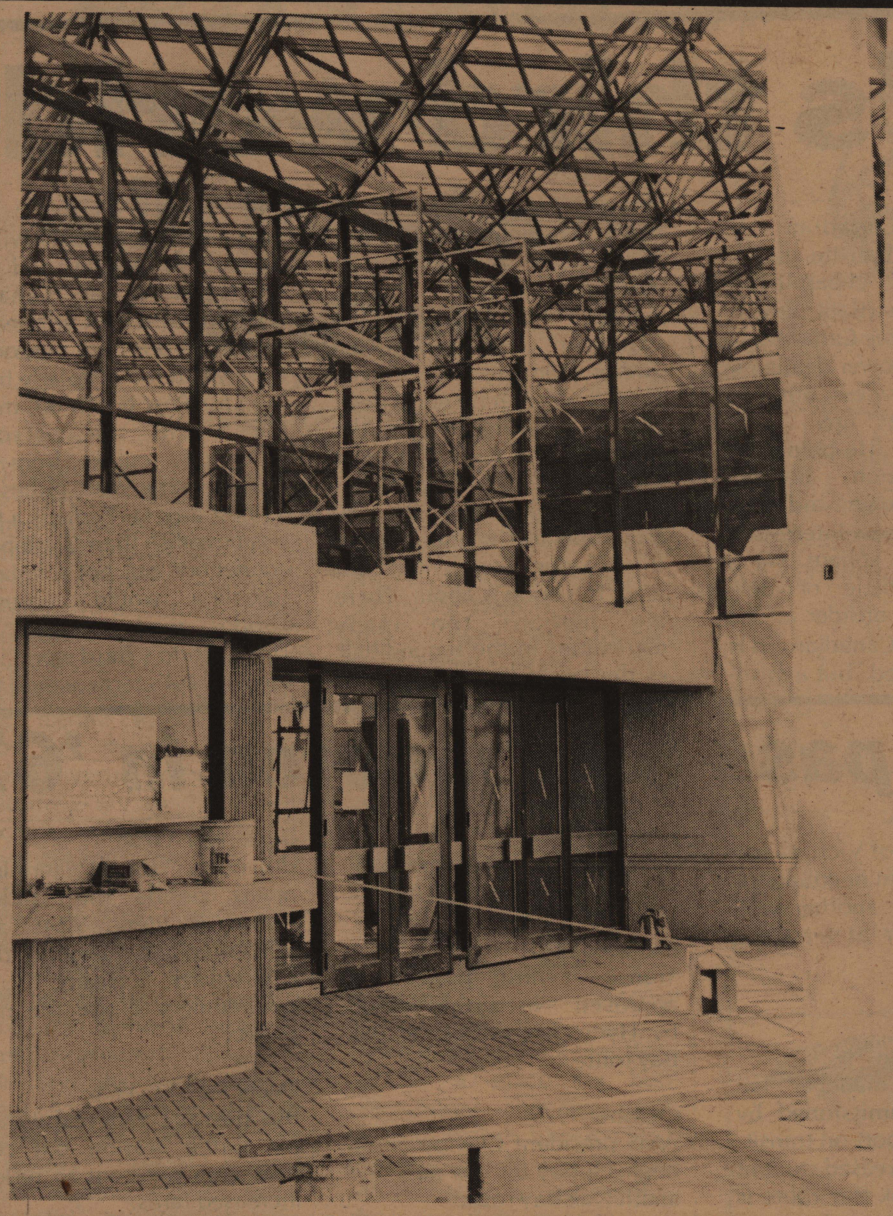
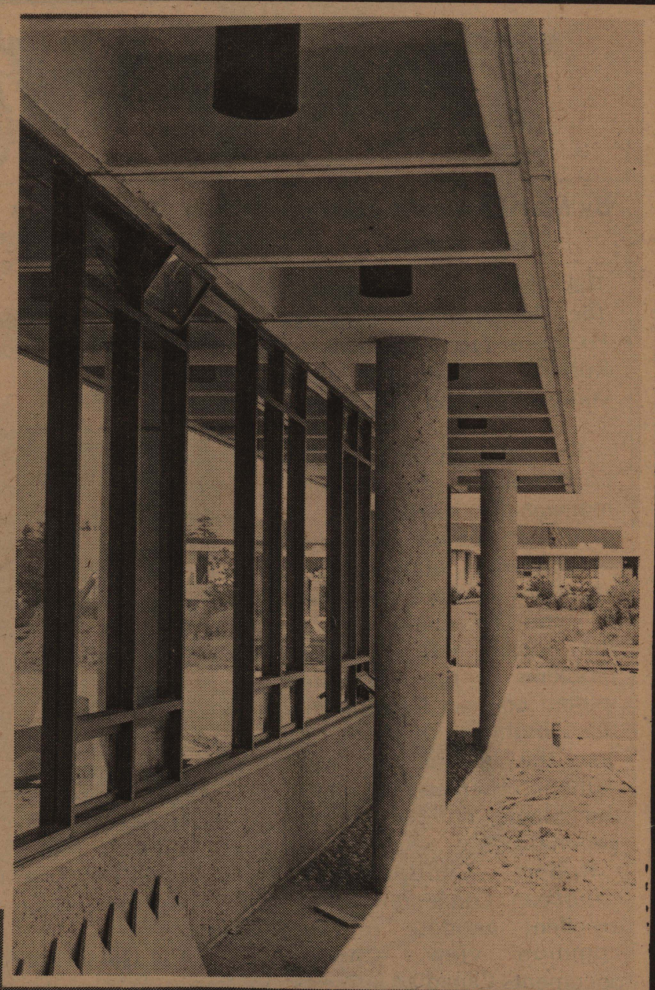
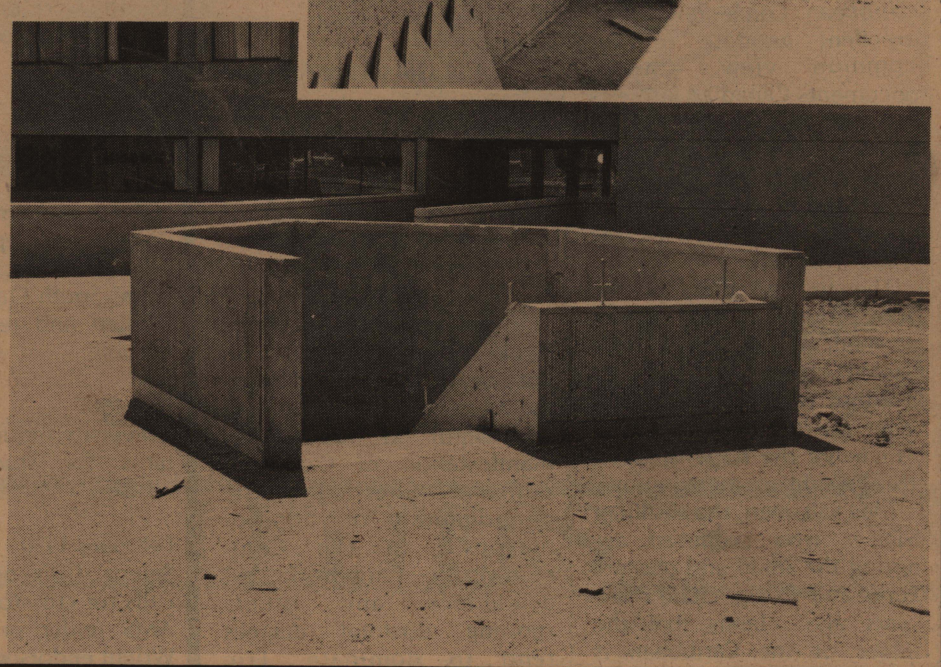
PHOTO ESSAY



The new centre under cover



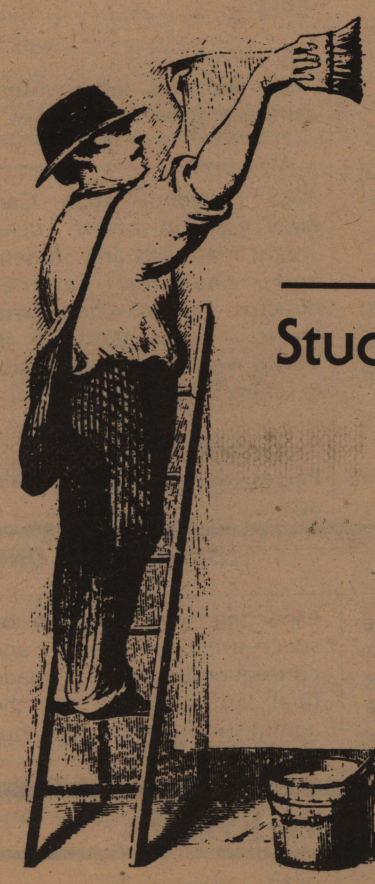


Martlet photographer Ross Tremblay spent a fine afternoon last week stalking the newly opened hallways of the University Centre.

Ross reports:

"The University Centre (which you may know as the Faculty of the Bureaucratic Arts) is coming—though some may feel a little prematurely when they see the formidable neo-nazi architecture with built in bomb shelters which can only attest to future expectations of long seiges. One can only ask—over what?

"Though most of the completed interior verges upon banality, some open areas add an almost pleasant atmosphere to the rigors of functionality. Red brickwork adorns the places where student feet shall tread, though this also has its functional purpose; after all, blood stains here shall go unnoticed."



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